

S-416

Dorman's Conclusion, site
Princess Anne vicinity
Private

c. 1820, c. 1860, c. 1900

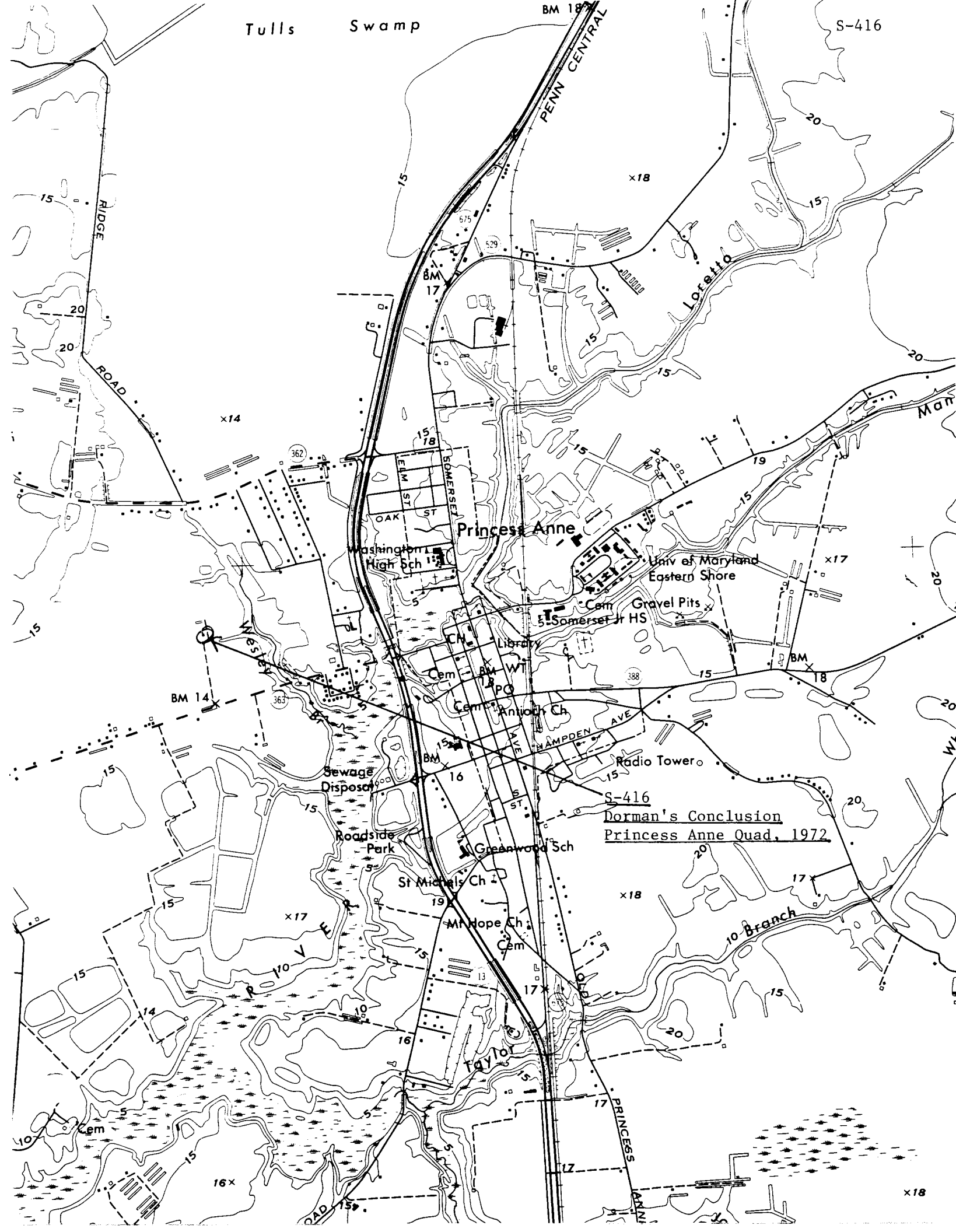
The construction history of this two-and-a-half story, three-bay frame house is more complicated than it appeared at first glance, although the uneven south fenestration pointed immediately to a shift in building periods. The oldest section, the western two bays of the main block, dated to around 1820. Erected during the ownership of William H. Dorman, the braced frame structure retained early nineteenth century features, including a corner stair and Federal style mantels, chair rail, and baseboard.

In 1857 John W. Crisfield purchased the part of the Dorman's Conclusion tract that included this house and incorporated it into his adjacent Edge Hill estate. At that time or perhaps a few years later, when Crisfield transferred the property to his son Henry Page, the house was enlarged with a two-story, one-room plan addition that continued the roofline of the old Dorman house. The property is designated under the ownership of Col. Henry Page on the 1877 county atlas, and Page held title to the farm until 1884. Around 1900 the house was enlarged once more with a rear story-and-a-half kitchen wing. Dorman's Conclusion was burned in 1989.

Tulls Swamp

PENN CENTRAL

S-416



Princess Anne

Univ of Maryland Eastern Shore

S-416
Dorman's Conclusion
Princess Anne Quad, 1972

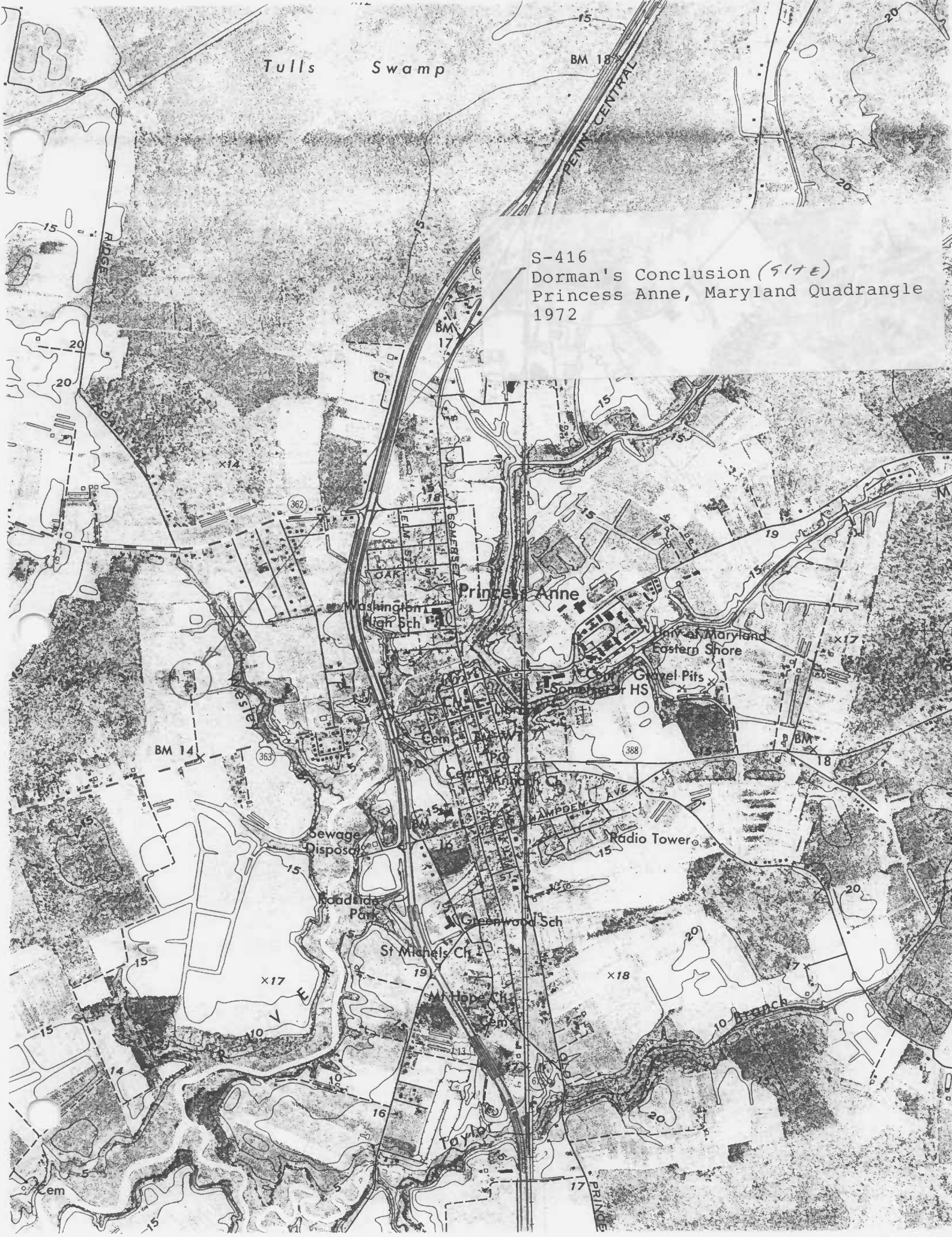
Tulls Swamp

BM 18

S-416

Dorman's Conclusion (SITE)

Princess Anne, Maryland Quadrangle
1972



Touart, Paul Baker

1990 Somerset: An Architectural History.

Maryland Historical Trust & Dorman's Conclusion

Somerset County Historical Trust.

gable end. Later in the nineteenth century, the hyphen was raised another story.

DORMAN'S CONCLUSION

Circa 1820, circa 1860, circa 1900

Princess Anne vicinity (site)

Private

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WILLIAM COSTEN HOUSE (NR)

1829

Wellington vicinity

Private

"Costin's Trouble" was patented to William Furniss in 1679, although the property evidently was occupied by his daughter Comfort and her husband, Stephen Costin. In his will of January 1697, Stephen Costin (later spelled Costen) devised portions of his plan-

tation to his sons Isaac and Stephen. Isaac's will of February 1743 assigned his portion to his son Isaac. Although Stephen Costin died intestate, his portion of "Costin's Trouble" fell to his son Stephen Costen, who subsequently sold the property to Matthias Costen, who is listed as a joiner in the land records. Although no will is recorded for Matthias Costen, the land apparently passed to his son Matthias, who had his portion of "Costin's Trouble" resurveyed as "Costen's Care" in 1794. In 1798 the tract was assessed in Dividing Creek Hundred. The valuation reads as follows:

Situate in Somerset County Near Dividing Creek about 5 Miles from Pocomoke River 1 Dwelling house 36 by 18 Two story high with 8 windows 2 1/2 feet by 3 1/2 feet Built with 2 Brick Chimneys Rest of Wood, 1 Kitchen 24 by 16 and 1 Milk house 12 by 10 and 1 Cook house 16 by 6 all wood.

Seven years after this assessment was made, Matthias Costen died and his plantation was willed to his son William. Born in 1779 William Costen was the fifth generation of Costens to farm the Dividing Creek property. In 1829 he replaced his father's house with the well-built, well-appointed transverse hall dwelling that stands today. A date brick of 1829 with the initials "W.C." is set into the upper portion of the chimney. William Costen died intestate on September 23, 1842. In all likelihood his wife, Mary M. Costen, occupied the plantation until her death in October 1854, although their son William M.N.B. Costen and his first wife, Henrietta Dickerson, apparently assumed full ownership of the family farm. Henrietta died in 1847, and William married Mary A. Costen.

In 1860, during William M.N.B.'s own-



S-416, Dorman's Conclusion, south elevation.